

NUMBER 12.

[H. F. No. 267.]

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (25,000) DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A SCIENTIFIC SURVEY FOR A CANAL CONNECTING LAKE SUPERIOR WITH THE ST. CROIX RIVER.

Your memorialists, the legislature of the state of Minnesota, respectfully represent that the rapidly increasing settlements of inland America, west of Lake Superior and Michigan demands greater and cheaper facilities than are at present existing, and a more direct water transit to the Atlantic sea board and European ports.

That the saving of distance through a canal connecting Lake Superior waters with the Saint Croix river would tend to open an immense trade, and result in carrying the agricultural surplus products of the Upper Mississippi Valley to eastern and European markets without transfer or breaking bulk.

This inland trade calls for government aid under the national internal improvement system. Believeing every dollar expended this way is repaid to the government with benefits derived from the increased wealth received, thus opening a communication which the welfare of the nation demands, and which must ultimately be accomplished.

America's great inland seas, and the Mississippi river must be connected.

And your memorialists respectfully ask of congress for an appropriation of twenty-five thousand (25,000) dollars, for the purpose of making a scientific survey of this route to connect the waters of Lake Superior with the navigable waters of Saint Croix river at Taylor Falls. A distance computed by the United States geologist Robert Dale Owen of eighty-four (84) miles.

Your memorialists therefore earnestly request the matter aforesaid may receive your early and favorable consideration.

Approved February 21, 1887.

NUMBER 13.

[H. F. No. 107.]

A JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE COAL LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, The value of coal in the economy of civilization is so well understood, and as our forests disappear it becomes one of the necessities of life in our advanced civilization, and although the United States contains within her borders two hundred thousand

(200,000) square miles of land underlaid with coal, being nearly five (5) times greater in area than the coal lands of the rest of the civilized world, yet to-day the people of the United States, from the richest to the poorest, are forced to pay tribute to a few men holding this vast area of coal bearing land; and

WHEREAS, The holders of this necessity of life and civilization of our country have performed no service to their fellow-countrymen to entitle them to this privilege, but their wealth and power is derived solely from the artificial scarcity they have created in the coal supply by illegal combinations and conspiracies; therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That our senators and representatives in the congress of the United States be requested to prepare a bill asserting, by the right of eminent domain, the sovereign right of the people to relieve themselves of this oppression by condemning all coal lands where such conspiracies and combinations exist, and also to reserve our coal lands yet belonging to the general government as valuable mineral lands are reserved, and for the establishment of some system of management [whereby] the people can at all times obtain cheap fuel at the actual cost of mining the same, and not permit this great essential of life to be monopolized by a few citizens to the great detriment of the whole people.

Approved March 2, 1887.

NUMBER 14.

[H. F. NO. 578.]

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS FOR THE PAYMENT OF BOUNTY TO MEMBERS OF THE FIRST MINNESOTA CAVALRY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE FIRST MINNESOTA MOUNTED RANGERS.

WHEREAS, The First Minnesota Cavalry, commonly called the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, rendered important and valuable services to the country for a period of one (one) year from about November one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two (1862) to December one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three (1863) in defending the frontiers of this state and driving the hostile Indians from the borders thereof in the most desolating Indian war ever known in the United States, and,

WHEREAS, They have never received recognition at the hands of the government in the way of bounty fully earned by their patriotic service, therefore be it

Resolved, that the senators and representatives of this state in congress be and are hereby requested to use their influence to secure early legislation in congress as may provide for the payment of a reasonable bounty to the members of said regiment of Minnesota Mounted Rangers.

Approved March 2d, 1887.